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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SMITH, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

JB

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/601,946

Applicant(s)

ADAMS ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew J. Smith

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 8-10, 15 and 21-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6, 11-14 and 16-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 29Mar&5Oct2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the two different sized blowout preventers, the second blowout preventer coupling member, and the breechblock connection with the riser equipment (fig. 9) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: no structural features are discussed to facilitate two different sized blowout preventers. Specifically, neither the coupling 90 nor the blowout preventer 38 is described with respect to coupling 240 and different diameters. The only discussion of different diameters is on page 3, lines 19-20 and this sentence states only two diameters, not the relationship between coupling 240 and the different diameters.

Page 14, line 10, the first occurrence of "choke" should be –kill–; line 12, the second occurrence of "84" should be 85.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Curington et al. (3688840).

Art Unit: 3672

Curington et al. disclose a coupling system for releasably connecting a line to a blowout preventer 12 comprising a plate 34 having a guide 33; first line coupling male member 15; blowout preventer connector 27 in fluid communication with the first line male coupling member (via line 13 when connected) and the blowout preventer; line 22; and line guide 24, which includes a female coupling member, releasably connected to coupling 15.

Claims 21, 25, 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herd et al. (3974875).

Herd et al. disclose a pressure line breechblock-coupling member with releasably connected female end 20 and male end 30 in fluid communication with a riser 12 and the pressure line diameter greater than two inches (col. 3, line 47)

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3672

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curington et al.

Curington et al. disclose member 15 as a male connector and guide 24 as a female connector but not member 15 as female and guide 24 as male.

The Examiner hereby takes Official Notice that it is well known to make connections with male and female arrangements, and to make either connection member a male or female element. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the connection with guide 24 male and member 15 female since it is well known to do so.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herd et al.

Herd et al. disclose a pressure line breech block coupling member with releasably connected female end 20 and male end 30 in fluid communication with a riser 12 but not end 30 as female and end 20 as male.

The Examiner hereby takes Official Notice that it is well known to make connections with male and female arrangements, and to make either connection member a male or female element. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the connection with end 20 male and end 30 female since it is well known to do so.

Art Unit: 3672

Claims 1 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Curington et al. in view of Wilson (4319637).

Curington et al. disclose two blowout preventers 11, 12; choke line 13 with releasable couplings and ends for connecting to the blowout preventers; kill line 14 with releasable couplings and ends for connecting to the blowout preventers; first blowout preventer coupling member 15 secured to the blowout preventers and adapted to releasably connect, at 24, to the choke line coupling; second blowout preventer coupling member 16 secured to the blowout preventers and adapted to releasably connect, at 25, to the kill line coupling but not different sized blowout preventers.

Wilson suggests different sized blowout preventers (col. 4, line 4) in a pressure line system concerned with reliable couplings.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use two different sized blowout preventers, as suggested by Wilson, since it is well known.

Claims 22-24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herd et al. in view of Reynolds (6530430).

Herd et al. disclose a pressure line breech block coupling member with releasably connected female end 20 and male end 30 in fluid communication with a riser 12 but not a tensioner, slip-joint assembly, or slip-joint tensioner.

Reynolds presents a tensioner 70, slip-joint assembly 90, or slip-joint tensioner 30 associated with a blowout preventer.

Art Unit: 3672

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the Herd et al. connection in the Reynolds system as indicated by applicant, page 18, lines 6 and 7.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 7 is allowed.

Claims 2-6, 11-14, and 16-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Smith whose telephone number is 703-305-5135. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F, 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 703-308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



Art Unit: 3672

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Bagnell  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

MJS *MJS*  
15 December 2004